

JULY 1947

# FLORIDA WILDLIFE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

*Fish and the Legislature  
Missing a Bet on Bobwhite*



# FLORIDA WILDLIFE

**For the  
Conservation  
Restoration  
Protection  
of Our Game and Fish**



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE  
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER  
FISH COMMISSION  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



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**WILLIAM W. WEEKS**

Editor

## IT USED TO BE

This month FLORIDA WILDLIFE is proud to present the first in a regular series of conservation cartoons by J. N. (Ding) Darling, America's foremost outdoor cartoonist. Ding's first drawing, "It Used To Be," which appears on the back cover, tells the story of our fading natural resources far more graphically than any printed word. Perhaps the cartoon exaggerates the situation a little, but sometimes we have to exaggerate to put over our point. And Ding certainly puts over a point—a very true and very tragic point. Like the pompous gentleman in the panel, we, here in Florida, are still proudly boasting of our wildlife wealth. But, ironically, while we are boasting, our crop of game and fish is growing steadily thinner. It doesn't take an expert to see that. Anyone fished or hunted the state twenty years ago is aware of the slow but steady decline of our wildlife population. Florida is lucky. She was born with a bulging pocket-book of wildlife wealth. But the funds aren't unlimited. If we continue to spend that wealth with the careless abandon of a drunken sailor, the result is a foregone conclusion. . . . In fewer years than you think we too will be sadly observing that—"It Used To Be."

Florida is generally conceded to be one of the nation's choice angling paradises. But when it comes to cashing in on the sport other states leave us at the post. Department of Interior statistics show that the Land of Sunshine ranks 30th among the states in the number of licenses issued and 26th in total fees collected. Our arch tourist competitor, California, led the list in revenue collected and was runnerup in total licenses issued. Last year she reaped over a million and a half fishing dollars from 764,557 licenses. During the same period Florida issued 84,689 permits for a return of \$201,399.

## THE COVER

*This striking scenic shot by a Florida News and Photo Service cameraman, shows the sun setting across a small lake near Winter Haven.*



# FISH and



## A resume of fish bills introduced during '47 session

THE 1947 session of legislature may have been just another session to some, but it was a field day for Florida fish. The finny tribe barged into the spotlight at the opening gun and stayed there until the law-making machine skidded to a halt early in June. It is doubtful if there has been so much discussion on aquatic life since the whale swallowed Jonah. During the 60-day conclave some 33 local and general fishing bills were introduced. They affected everything from the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to Henry, the pole-vaulting bass from Wakulla Springs. Of the 33, eleven became laws and the remainder fell by the wayside. Only one of the approved measures was a strictly general bill; three were general bills of local application, and the other seven were local legislations.

The general measure that passed was the famous "no-penalty" bill designed to reopen Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns river to commercial fishing. Introduced by Senator Pearce of Palatka, the act specifically exempts fishermen on Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns from punishment under game and fish commission regulations. The bill brought indignant protests from sportsmen throughout the state. Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, pointed out that fish bore no postmarks and that

under such a law game fish could be netted from any lake and stream in Florida and sold under the pretense they came from Okeechobee or the St. Johns river. Despite these protests, however, the bill passed the senate by a one-vote margin and was whizzed through the house in a landslide of ayes. Governor Caldwell would not sign the bill because he felt it was "bad legislation", but neither would he veto it, so it went on the statute books without his signature.

To plug a few of the more obvious loopholes in the measure Representatives Hendry and Peebles, the two most ardent champions of the commercial fisherman, hustled through three general bills of local application to act as backstops. Two of the bills provided the manner and method of netting fish from the two bodies and the third placed a cent-a-pound levy on all bream and crappie taken by commercial netters. The tax goes to the State Board of Conservation, which was given supervision of the waters on the grounds they have been "legislatively" classified as salt water.

In the final analysis the above measures were the only commercial fresh water fishing bills enacted. However, the grab-em-for-dough boys were in there pitching every minute. By the time the lawmakers were settled in their seats, Rep. Hendry and Rep. Peebles began dumping bills in the hopper. One, a bill of definitions, purported to clear up the disturbing question of what is a fresh water fish and what is a salt water fish. The legislative definitions, however, did not altogether jibe with biological definitions, so the bill died in committee. Still another bill would have made the no-penalty legislation retroactive to

(Continued on Page 8)





**Is South Florida capitalizing on its quail possibilities? One of the state's top biologists says no, and gives some reasons why?**

**By  
O. EARL FRYE**

# MISSING A BET . . .

A LITTLE less than two years ago one of Florida's most avid quail hunters stood beside me in a little pine grove east of Punta Gorda and waved his hand at the flatwoods that surrounded us.

"Ten years ago," he said, "I could step out here any day in the week and shoot the limit of quail on this one hundred-acre tract. Five years ago I could walk a little farther and work my dogs a little harder and do the same thing.

"But for the last two years . . ."

The hunter shook his head mournfully.

"Would you believe it if I told you that during the last two seasons I've spent at least 10 solid days tramping this area with two of the best dogs in the state, and to date I haven't seen a single covey? Would you believe it?"

I solemnly assured him I would believe it.

"But why is it?" he demanded. "What's the trouble? You've got to admit this is a quail paradise. Why aren't they living in it?"

I looked around. It was typical South Florida cattle country—open pineland, studded with palmetto and sporting a thicker than average carpet of ground foliage. Yes, as far as physical geography was concerned it was a quail paradise. That was as obvious as sand in your spinach. Yet it was equally obvious the area was as barren of

quail as the Gobi desert. The hunters had found it out; the landowners had found it out, and officials of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission had found it out. The hunters and landowners were discouraged but philosophical about the matter. Most of them took the stand that quail crops rest on some mysterious whim of nature, and that restocking is the only answer to a thin harvest. The Game and Fish Commission, however, knew better. They knew that, generally speaking, quail respond to cultivation and good land use much the same as wheat, corn or any other product of nature. They felt that somewhere along the line, South Florida was missing a bet on the bobwhite. It became my job to find out how, and what, if anything, could be done about it. That's how the so-called "Charlotte County Quail Investigation" was born.

Today that investigation is 18 months old; with each month it has become more evident that South Florida is indeed missing a bet on the bobwhite.

If properly managed the five-county area west of Lake Okeechobee could well become a veritable mecca for the quail hunter. Nature has cloaked it in enough ground foliage to give bobwhite comfortable living quarters; there is normally enough food to keep his family healthy and robust; and perhaps equally important is the flat open terrain which allows the bird-dog to work and the hunter to shoot.

Right now most of this country is used as cattle range. Many of these ranchers, particularly in Charlotte and DeSoto Counties, are able to pay their taxes by leasing

hunting rights to eager nimrods. Yet their interest in protecting the quail is virtually nil.

This attitude is understandable to a certain extent. Many ranchers are firmly and honestly convinced that there is no way they can promote the quail population without cutting their cattle production.

I recently discussed the matter with a prominent cattleman whose attitude was typical.

"Sure," he said, "I'd like nothing better than to be able to invite my friends here for a little sure-fire quail hunting. But beef is my bread and butter. You can't expect me to stop burning off my range and improving pastureland just for the sake of a few days good quail hunting."

He is right. I don't expect him to curtail an industry for the sake of the bobwhite, because, fortunately, he doesn't have too. There is no reason why a landowner can't raise cattle or cut timber to his heart's content and still practice good quail management. All it takes is good judgment and a little effort.

There is no guaranteed method of quail management. You always have the weather and natural fluctuations in populations to contend with. But aside from those uncontrollable elements, there appear to be three main factors influencing quail crops in South Florida. They are hunting pressure, indiscriminate burning and cattle pasture improvement. The landowner can go a long way toward remedying all three.

Since the war hunting pressure has zoomed to prodigious heights. Last year more Floridians bought hunting licenses

(ED. NOTE—O. Earl Frye is Pittman-Robertson Coordinator for the State of Florida and recognized as one of the most brilliant young wildlife biologists in the South. He holds a masters degree from the University of Florida and is currently working on a thesis for his doctorate. The thesis will be based on his Charlotte County quail studies.)



than ever before and this year the sale perhaps will be just as great. Paradoxically each year sees less and less hunting area for the average hunter. Private hunting clubs and wealthy sportsmen are leasing hunting rights to more and more land. This practice has concentrated hunting in the little remaining open territory to such an extent that many formerly "good hunting" areas are completely burned out. The landowner can do much to relieve this condition by posting as little of his land as possible, and by judicious burning of range land to prevent the formation of easily wiped out game pockets.

General, indiscriminate burning of rangeland has probably contributed more to the decline of quail population in South Florida than any one thing. And it can be remedied at no cost to cattle production.

The periodic burning of wire grass rough is essential to the South Florida cattle in-

aids the growth of quail food plants, but also simplifies bobwhite's food finding chores.

This spring we made an intensive study of the fire problem in Charlotte County. We found the majority of birds feeding in late afternoon were feeding on burns. However, in almost every case they never ranged more than fifty yards from unburned territory. Later on as vegetation began to inch out of the blackened earth the birds began to range farther out on the burn. But when darkness began to fall and it was roosting time, they turned back to the unburned sectors.

Most fire damage to quail lies in burning at the wrong season of the year and burning over large areas. It is common practice to start a fire in the middle of the day in a good wind. Obviously this is the easiest way for the cattleman to clean off his rangeland, but unfortunately it results in

cases they burn slowly and leave the area dotted with unburned islands of green palmetto. Then shortly after the sun goes down the flame is extinguished by dewfall.

Such burning doesn't endanger the quail population; in fact it apparently makes the area all the more attractive.

The few cattlemen who have tried the system also find it very beneficial. There is less heat generated and less likelihood of damaging grass roots and young timber.

Still another advantage of controlled burning lies in the fact that it reduces the possibility of destructive range fires during the normally dry months of April and May. Accidental blazes during this period cause little damage because the small burns act as fire breaks.

The third destructive influence on South Florida's quail crop lies in the current method of pasture improvement. It is not at all

# ON BOBWHITE



**Restocking isn't always the solution to a sparse quail crop.**

dusty. We know that. We also know that, contrary to popular opinion, it is also beneficial to quail—if done properly. When wire grass flatwoods are not burned over occasionally they grow up into a heavy, undesirable rough that furnishes neither forage for cattle nor suitable habitat for quail. Not only do quail dislike heavy ground cover but important quail food plants are unable to grow in competition with the greedy masses of wire grass and shrubs that cloak the earth. Studies in Charlotte County have shown that prescribed burning of ground litter not only

a hot, sweeping blaze that burns the ground vegetation off clean, destroying young pines, and frequently leaving huge blocks of charred earth a mile or more wide. Such large burns are often followed by another and another until hundreds of acres are left without an inch of quail cover. This drives thousands of birds from their habitat and concentrates them in a small unburned territory where they are much more vulnerable to hunters and predators.

The cattleman could accomplish the same objective and save quail by making numerous small burns. Quail range freely across any burn less than 100 yards wide, but when it is bigger, valuable feeding and nesting areas are destroyed.

Small burns can be made easily enough in most of South Florida without the use of fire lanes by starting fires late in the afternoon on clear windless days. In such

uncommon to see mile after mile of formerly good quail country with practically every square foot of palmetto and shrubbery removed. Quail cannot exist in such areas. These huge areas of improved pasture frequently adjoin other large acreages so heavily matted with palmetto or brush that it is of little value to cattle and quail. If the same amount of pasture improvement had been scattered over the entire area in long narrow strips doubtlessly both the fowl and the four-legged critter would have benefited.

Those, in a nutshell, are the causes behind South Florida's faltering quail health. The cure lies in a little care and effort on the part of the hunter and the man who owns the hunting land. We biologists can prescribe the remedy. But only the landowner can apply it.

**Indiscriminate burning and wholesale pasture improvement by ranchers has made it difficult for bobwhite to find rations and living quarters for his family.**





# They're **BITING** Here!

## **OCHEESEEE POND**

This 7,000-acre "pond" in east Jackson County is a veritable paradise for anglers. Last month practically every fisherman who wet a hook here, caught the limit of bream and shell crackers. One four-man party caught a string of 80 bream averaging better than a half-pound in less than three hours. The hungry fish show a preference for crickets and grasshoppers, but are turning down practically nothing. Casting for bass is also good just before daylight.

\* \* \*

## **APALACHICOLA RIVER**

Bluegills and shellcrackers, bedding along the upper reaches of this West Florida stream, are striking worms with wild abandon. It affords particularly good angling in Gadsden and upper Calhoun Counties. Fishing is good anytime, but best in the late afternoon.

\* \* \*

## **ORANGE LAKE**

Located at the south end of Alachua County this is one of the best bass fishing spots in the state. Currently fishermen are having the best luck near Red Bird Island and Grassy Point. Flies are bringing good strings, but big ones seem to be going for shiners. This lake covers approximately eight square miles, so you'll need a boat.

\* \* \*

## **DEAD LAKES**

The Dead Lakes area in Gulf and Calhoun Counties has long been a favorite fishing ground for out-of-state anglers. Consequently some sectors have been overfished, particularly for bass. In the "Five Stumps" area, however, they're catching the limit of bream and shellcrackers every day. Earthworm seem to be the best bait with catawba worms.

\* \* \*

## **LAKE TRAFFORD**

Bass, shell crackers and blue bream are all striking with gusto in this Collier County lake. The big-mouths are going for a Johnson spoon aided and abetted by pork rind. Both the shellcrackers and bream prefer an earthworm diet. However, several anglers have reported good results from "pot-bellied" minnows. Lake Trafford is about five miles south of the Hendry County line, west of Bunker Hill.

## **LAKE APOPKA**

One of the best bass fishing grounds in central Florida—if you have your own boat. Has been very crowded during May, with fishing camps pushed to supply the boat demand. Evidently the supply of bass is still good, however. Most of the limit catches were taken with a 2000 lure and "bass-bugs."

\* \* \*

## **OCHLOCKNEE RIVER**

You'll find good bream fishing on the upper end of the Ochlocknee near the Georgia boundary. Best catches have been reported at Fairbanks Ferry. Bank fishing however is poor, so be sure to make arrangements for a boat. You'll probably find earthworms the best bait. Water is still a little too high for good angling on the south portion of the river.

\* \* \*

## **ST. JOHN'S RIVER**

Black bass are striking enthusiastically all along the St. John's, but the best catches have been reported south of Lake George. Parties from Orlando, Sanford and surrounding towns, have been claiming the limit daily on Dexter Lake. Several 10-pounders have been reported. Best results have been obtained with top water plugs. Speckled perch are also biting well in the early morning.

\* \* \*

## **LAKE OKEECHOBEE**

This famous fishing ground is still furnishing its share of good catches—particularly on the south edge. The rock and sand bottom there is the playground of the beautiful bronzeback. Fly fishermen are having the best luck in this area. The best lures in the grassy coves are Tony Accetta Weed Dodgers and the Johnson Silver Minnow. Top-water fishermen are using silver flashes and frogs. There are several camps in the area with boats for hire.

\* \* \*

## **BLUE SPRINGS**

As a bream heaven this beautiful Jackson County body of water is second to Ocheesee Pond. Practically anyone who can carry a pole and line is landing the limit here. Catawba worms are the best bait, with grasshoppers and crickets high on the list. Casting for bass is also good in the early morning.



# From SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

IT WAS hard on the bream when the Lake Area Sportsmen's Club gathered on the shore of beautiful Compass Lake early last month for a giant fish fry. More than 100 members and their families had their fill of the delicious panfish, hooked from the lake earlier in the day. The affair marked the beginning of an intensive drive for membership in the Round Lake organization. The Lake Area club, one of the most active small clubs in the state, has been responsible for obtaining more than 120,000 bream fingerlings for restocking Jackson County waters this year. Membership of the club now numbers 140.—**C. S. Bryan.**



Clark Myers, Jack Albrecht, H. V. Pierce, Tom Chaires, W. F. Hilton, George Wallace, R. P. Woods and Joe Potter have been named directors of the recently-revived Manatee County Fish and Game Association. The new directors were elected at a meeting held in Palmetto.

President J. B. Tippin of Indian River County Rod and Gun Club discloses that through efforts of the club and with the cooperation of county commissioners and private landowners, Blue Cypress Lake will soon become a vast recreational area for local sportsmen. Tippin says 25 acres along the shore of the beautiful lake has been donated for recreational purposes by Landowner B. L. Holman. Holman also contributed \$1,000 to go toward improving the area. Rancher Hamp Surrency donated an extensive right-of-way to the 28-square mile fishing spot. A road to the area will be constructed by the county commission. The lake has been virtually inaccessible to fishermen for many years.

Porter H. Lansing of Sanford has been reelected president of the Seminole County Sportsmen's Association. This marks the fourth time Lansing has been named to head the organization. John Meish was elected vice-president, Elton Moughton, Jr., secretary and George Stine, treasurer. W. E. Jamison was renamed custodian. Charles Brown and R. Lossing were renamed to serve on the board of directors, along with new officers R. A. Frank and Jack Russell.

The Anglers' Club of Pensacola, Inc., has elected new officers. Brown Rainwater was named president; D. R. Bowman, vice-president; A. E. Swift, secretary; and Ed Coursen, treasurer. The club, one of the largest in the state, now has a paid membership of nearly 800. Recently Anglers, Inc., accepted responsibility for feeding approximately 1,000 young quail distributed by the Game and Fish Commission in Escambia County. To date the growing birds have made away with

over 400 pounds of feed. The club has also won its long campaign to halt industrial pollution of nearby Eleven Mile Creek. Officials of the local paper mill told the club recently that equipment is now being installed to eliminate this condition. — **Brown Rainwater.**

Through the efforts of the Highlands County Game and Fish Association Lake Jackson in the northwest part of the county has been restocked with 6,000 bass fingerlings. The little fish, produced at the Winter Haven hatchery, were supplied by the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

At a meeting in Ft. Myers last month the Caloosahatchee Conservation Club adopted a resolution asking the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to open the closed lands in Collier County to hunting, subject to approval of that county. The resolution was proposed by Guy M. Strayhorn, city attorney and district vice president of the Florida Wildlife Federation. The club's fish committee, headed by Doc Wilson, also recommended that the Tamiami Trail be set as the dividing line between fresh and salt water for Lee County anglers. All waters west of the Trail would be labeled salt and those east fresh water. The club voted to suggest the new line to the county commission. If this body approves, the proposal will be presented to the game and fish commission.

First place in the Kissimmee Sportsmen's Club May fishing contest was taken by Club President Ellis Davis. The prize was a Shakespeare reel. Second prize, a tackle box, went to Roy Bronson, and third place went to Roy Partin. Other prize winners included Marion Tendall and Tony Rotunda.



## FISH AND THE LEGISLATURE

(Continued from Page 3)

include "all prosecutions now pending." It was also shunted aside by the committee on game and fish.

On the heels of these proposals came a joint resolution for a constitutional amendment prohibiting the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission from passing regulations inconsistent with the laws of the legislature. This would have been a direct reversal of the amendment under which the commission now operates.

Apparently this set off an epidemic of joint resolutions. Along came one to abolish the commission completely; another followed which would create an elective office of Game and Fish Commissioner; another would have set up a court of equity to hear certain cases of game and fish violations, and still another would have established uniform and inflexible seasons.

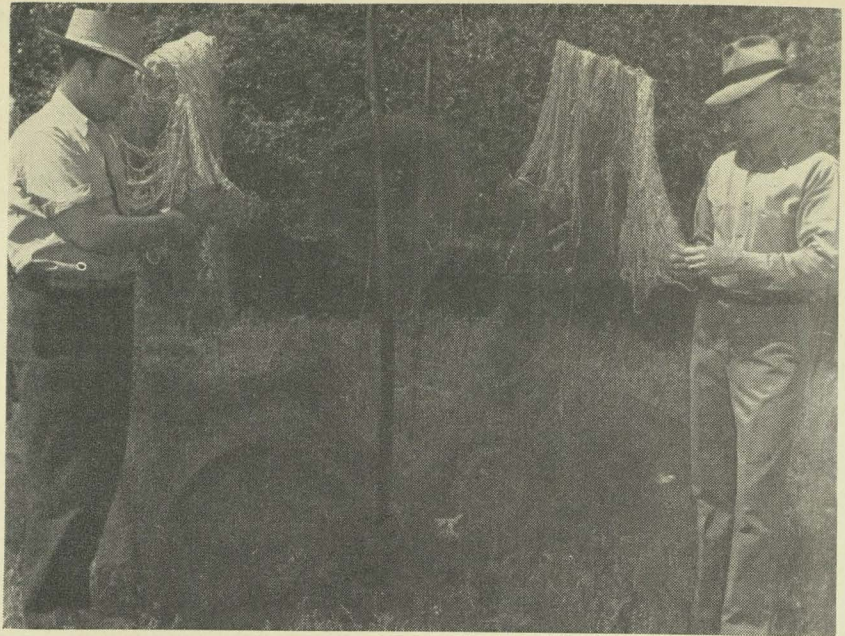
All, however, met an early death.

Mid-way in the session Rep. Carter of Alachua County introduced a bill providing free hunting, fishing and trapping license for all Florida veterans now drawing disability compensation. A check revealed there are now 33,000 such cases in the state. Rep. Baker of Liberty County went a step farther and introduced a proposal which would grant the same privilege to all veterans regardless of whether they were disabled or not. The former passed the house but died in the upper chamber without reaching a vote; the latter was killed in committee.

Several measures, designed to produce badly-needed conservation revenue, were introduced, but all met a stone wall of opposition. One would have provided a one dollar resident fishing license, with no exceptions; another would have raised the state annual non-resident fee from \$7 to \$15; still another would have boosted the non-resident trip license from \$2 to \$5; a fourth proposed a license for all fishing guides, and a fifth would have channeled 20 per cent of all taxes derived from the sale of gasoline for motor boats to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Another 20 per cent of this revenue would have gone to the State Board of Conservation, and the remainder toward the upkeep and improvement of inland and coastal waterways.

Three of these bills were shelved by committee and the other two expired on the floor.

Other general bills that died aborning were: One to change the expiration date on fishing licenses to one year from the date of issue; one which would allow the legislature to control the purse strings of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and a third that would have made



E. E. Whiddon (left) and C. P. Bush, wildlife officers in the Third District, examine nets and traps confiscated from the fresh water lakes and streams of Okaloosa County.

### Commission Meets Aug. 9

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will meet in Orlando Aug. 9 to approve the 1947-48 conservation program and set up an operating budget for the coming year.

The meeting will be held at the Angebilt Hotel. Director Ben C. Morgan said the five-man board did not plan to take any action on fishing or hunting regulations.

the ban on netting game fish inapplicable to "those who acted in good faith and in compliance with legislative provisions."

One of the seven local bills that went through without a hitch was a measure opening the beautiful Wakulla River wildlife refuge to fishing. The 800-acre sanctuary, one of the beauty spots of North Florida, was "legislatively" opened despite the fact that it and all other state refuges fall under the jurisdiction of the Game and Fish Commission.

Other local measures included a "no-penalty" bill permitting netting on South Lake in Brevard County; a law providing an additional license fee of \$25 for non-resident fishing in Washington County; and a bill permitting residents of Jackson County to fish in private ponds without a license.

Those, in a nutshell, were the piscatorial problems the 1947 legislature had to deal with. The flood of bills had a disturbing influence on some of the legislators. When the lawmaking body adjourned, one member of the house game and fish committee swore he had become so fish-minded during the 60-day session that he couldn't pass a 2000-lure without striking at it.

### WILDLIFE FLEES FLOODING GLADES

Wild game in the Everglades were forced to forsake their homes for higher ground early this month as virtually incessant downpours virtually inundated the whole vast area.

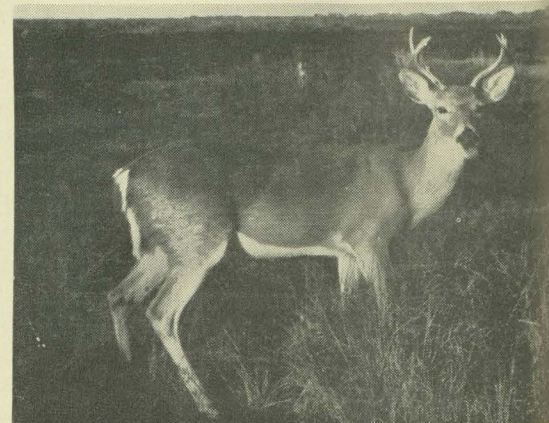
State wildlife officers in the area said coons, opossums, deer, wildcats and other animals were fleeing before the rising floodwaters. In some sections young quail and turkey have been trapped by the water. In most areas, however, it appeared that the game bird crop would not suffer too much.

In the western section of the glades, best known for quail hunting, young bobwhites are apparently still able to find feeding and nesting grounds.

Ben C. Morgan declared wildlife officers were doing what they could to protect game in the area, but added that "there wasn't much they could do."

Snakes are also moving out of the inundated sectors. One family near Pahokee were forced to move from the area because of the invading reptiles.

A beautiful buck, startled by the camera as he flees the flooded Glades area.





# GAME and FISH VIOLATIONS

Name of Violator	Violation	Fine	County	Arresting Officer
D. W. Smith, Oakland Park	Possession undersize bass	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Rose M. Mirgle, Miami	Fishing without license	14.75	Broward	Giddens & Moore
P. F. Mirgle, Miami	Fishing without license	14.75	Broward	Giddens & Moore
William Lewis, Hialeah	Possession undersize bass	30.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Marshall Bovier, Miami Springs	Possession undersize bass	30.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Mrs. Marshall Bovier, Miami Springs	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
J. H. Wright, Miami	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Albert Trawick, Miami	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Willie Thomas, Miami	Possession undersize bass	30.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
George Franklin, Miami	Possession undersize bass	20.00	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Sallie Williams, Miami	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Jack Martin, Copeland	Fishing without license	5.00	Collier	Dyches & Barnes
Chester Saunders, Homestead	Possession doe deer	175.00	Dade	L. E. Bunnell
J. Boylan, Miami	Shooting from highway	10.00	Dade	O. E. Moseley
D. Turner, Miami	Possession coots closed season	30.25	Dade	Moseley & Bunnell
E. J. Johnson, Miami	Possession coots closed season	24.00	Dade	Moseley & Bunnell
Howard Price, Miami	Shooting from Timiami trail	15.00	Dade	O. E. Moseley
Anderson Johnson, Miami	Shooting from highway	15.00	Dade	O. E. Moseley
Robert Wise, Miami	Shooting from highway	15.00	Dade	O. E. Moseley
B. J. Kewland, Miami	Shooting from highway	15.00	Dade	O. E. Moseley
Joe Norwick Miami	Shooting from highway	con. gun	Munroe	L. E. Bunnell
G. E. Sims, Pompano	Possession quail closed season	con. gun	Munroe	L. E. Bunnell
Chester Hooper, Evansville, Ind.	Fishing without license	100.00*	Palm Beach	I. R. Giddens
E. J. Boetticher, Degraff, Ohio	Fishing without license	25.00*	Palm Beach	J. S. Lanier
J. G. Harvey, West Palm Beach	Exceeding bag limit on fish	25.00*	Palm Beach	V. W. Hays
John Tate, Lake Park	Exceeding bag limit on fish	50.00	Palm Beach	J. S. Lanier
Richard Tate, Lake Park	Exceeding bag limit on fish	50.00	Palm Beach	J. S. Lanier
W. W. Hancock, Brooksville	Killing doe deer	44.50	Palm Beach	J. S. Lanier
Ray Esposito, Sanford	Fishing without license	100.00	Citrus	Geo. Townsend
T. C. Coker, Zellwood	Fishing without license	15.00	Lake	M. S. Welch
W. G. Ebersole, Gainesville	Fishing without license	15.00	Lake	M. S. Welch
J. C. Martin, Ft. McCoy	Fishing with spear	8.75**	Marion	Wiggins & Cason
James Trigg, Gainesville	Possession undersize bass	24.65	Marion	D. C. Land
O. H. Henderson, Gainesville	Fishing with spear	8.75**	Marion	Wiggins & Cason
Tom Everett, Citra	Exceeding bag limit on fish	25.00*	Marion	Grady Cason
J. R. Neal, Gainesville	Fishing with traps and exceeding bag limit	100.00	Marion	Land & Seckinger
C. E. Newton, Orlando	Fishing without license	25.00*	Marion	Cason & Wiggins
Charles Tipton, Kissimmee	Possession bass in closed season	29.73	Orange	W. C. Tanner
E. L. Brigman, Washington, N. C.	Possession turkey closed season	50.00	Orange	M. S. Welch
George White, Hawthorne	Fishing without license	29.56	Putnam	E. M. Ferrell
J. P. McDonough, Green Cove Springs	Fishing without license	22.34	Putnam	E. M. Ferrell
O. J. Jefferson, Green Cove Springs	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	S. C. Collier
J. P. Lyde, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	S. C. Collier
Mrs. N. R. Gilinas, Yukon	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	Avlin Pacetti
Mrs. Gertrude Carroll, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	S. C. Collier
Cathe Tucker, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	S. C. Collier
R. L. White, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	Alvin Pacetti
W. D. Gleaton, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	S. C. Collier
J. T. Marshall, Oklahoma City, Okla.	Fishing without license	18.00*	St. Johns	S. C. Collier
C. E. Dunlap, Oklahoma City, Okla.	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	Alvin Pacetti
J. R. Davis, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	Alvin Pacetti
D. R. Davis, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	15.00	St. Johns	Alvin Pacetti
H. S. McGowan, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	20.00	St. Johns	S. C. Collier
Joseph Taylor, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	20.00	St. Johns	S. C. Collier
H. E. Atkinson, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	20.00	St. Johns	S. C. Collier
R. A. Burkhalter, Orlando	Fishing without license	26.00	Seminole	H. K. Stalls
Mrs. R. L. Burkhalter, Orlando	Fishing without license	26.00	Seminole	J. C. Trice
W. A. Booth, Sanford	Taking squirrel closed season	S.D.	Seminole	J. C. Trice
Andrew Small, Altamonte Springs	Possession game closed season	100.50	Seminole	J. C. Trice
R. E. Mois, Tampa	Possession undersize bass	42.14	Sumter	Remington & Rutland
Nick Carras, Tampa	Fishing without license	42.14	Sumter	Remington & Rutland
G. L. Cont, Tampa	Fishing without license	42.14	Sumter	Remington & Rutland
Merle Tinkham, Bradenton	Possession undersize bass	50.00*	Sumter	Remington & Rutland
Fletcher Cato, Dade City	Fishing without license	27.39	Sumter	A. B. Nathe
Eddie Varns, Dade City	Fishing without license	27.39	Sumter	A. B. Nathe
Frank Jackson, Dade City	Fishing without license	27.39	Sumter	A. B. Nathe
Lillie M. Jackson, Dade City	Fishing without license	27.39	Sumter	A. B. Nathe
Harvey Bloodworth, Sanford	Fishing without license	27.39	Volusia	Wayne Clifton
L. L. Stanley, Millers Ferry	Hunting with light closed season	8.00	Washington	L. A. Harrell
Charles Randall, Palm Beach	Fishing without license	16.65	Broward	I. R. Giddens
A. N. Harrison, Palm Beach	Fishing without license	24.75	Broward	I. R. Giddens
Rev. Randall, Palm Beach	Fishing without license	24.75	Broward	I. R. Giddens
Hattie Johnson, Miami	Exceeding bag limit on fish	30.95	Broward	Giddens & Moore
R. J. Johnson, Miami	Exceeding bag limit on fish	30.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Willie Green, Miami	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Rittie Champion, Pahokee	Exceeding bag limit on fish	20.00	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Jim Mills, Pahokee	Exceeding bag limit on fish	20.00	Broward	Giddens & Moore
D. M. Foreman, Miami	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Kent Suenson, Miami	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Marion Mitchell, Miami	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Mrs. David Waldron, Miami Beach	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Eugene Dorsey, Ft. Lauderdale	Exceeding bag limit on fish	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
W. E. McIntosh, Princeton	Fishing without license	23.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
George Young, Princeton	Fishing without license	23.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
A. A. Fergerguson, Princeton	Fishing without license	31.68	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Strather Givens, Princeton	Fishing without license	31.68	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Henry Kennedy, South Bay	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Leona Kennedy, South Bay	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Oris Whitehead, Miami	Fishing without license	14.75	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Mrs. E. J. Disalno, Miami	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
E. J. Disalno, Miami	Fishing without license	18.05	Broward	Giddens & Moore
Willie Warkins, Jr., Miami	Fishing without license	14.75	Broward	Giddens & Moore

\* Bond forfeited \*\* Suspended sentence S.D. Sentence deferred



# COMMISSION SETS '47-'48 HUNTING SEASON

Florida moved a step closer toward a uniform hunting season last month when the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission adopted a statewide Nov. 20 to Jan. 5 deer season for 1947-48.

At their June 23 meeting here, the five-man board set a uniform opening and closing date for all five conservation districts. Hunting days within the season, however, still vary in the different districts.

Shooting in the Third District will be allowed every day in the week; in the Second and Fifth Districts Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will be closed, and in the First and Fourth Districts hunting will be prohibited on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. In the Fifth, six days of consecutive hunting will be allowed at the beginning of the season.

The turkey season will be the same as the deer season in the First, Second and Fourth Districts, but will run from Nov. 20 to Feb. 1 in the Third and Fifth Districts.

Quail and squirrel may be shot from Nov. 20 to Feb. 1 in all districts except the Third, where the closing date was set at Feb. 15.

The commission also moved to recommend a Feb. 1 closing date on dove to the federal government, with the opening date set as early as possible.

In view of the expected short waterfowl season, also set by the federal government, shooting of these birds will be allowed every day in all districts.

The same "within-the-season" hunting days set for deer will apply to all other game.

At the session, held before a gallery of nearly a hundred interested sportsmen, the commission heard Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, and other prominent outdoorsmen appeal for a uniform hunting season for the entire state.

In reply, Commission Chairman Lester Varn of Jacksonville declared the commission was "as eager to see uniform game laws as anyone."

"However," he explained, "each commissioner on this board represents the people of his district and he must follow their demands as far as is reasonably possible."

"It seems," he added, "that each district wants uniform law, but they want the other districts to accept their law. For that reason the people themselves will have to determine how soon Florida gets a uniform hunting season."

At its two-day session the commission also approved the 1946 general game management plan for the Osceola, Ocala and Apalachicola National Forests. The controlled deer hunt for Ocala was reset for the entire month of December. Forest service officials had requested that the hunt be cut to 15 days. The fur-trapping plan for Apalachicola was also reapproved. The bear hunt for this forest differs only as to the number of hunts. Last year three were allowed; this year the number was doubled.

In a move to improve waterfowl conditions in the Second and Fifth Districts an amendment was adopted prohibiting the use of all air-propelled boats in these areas from Nov. 20 to Jan. 20. Hunters complained the boats disturb and drive ducks and geese away from wintering grounds in the two districts.

In the Third District all motorboats were banned from Lakes Immonia, Jackson and Miccosukee from Oct. 15 to Mar. 15.

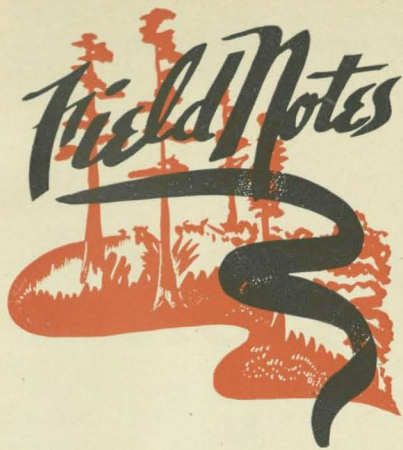


More than 5,000 persons saw this striking fresh water fish exhibit during the annual Outdoor Writers of America convention in St. Petersburg last month. The exhibit, set up in the mezzanine of the swanky Soreno Hotel, was handled by John F. Dequine, chief fisheries biologist for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. In order to keep the fish cool during the five-day convention, Dequine had to install a cooling system utilizing more than 200 pounds of ice a day.



Fido laughs uproariously as Cornie the Pet Coon nudges him in the shortribs. Of course, those may not be the right names, because the picture came to the editor's desk without any identification. However, you will have to agree that, identified or not, it is a very remarkable snapshot.





Wildlife officer Joe C. Smith of Williston offers one for the book. Joe says a few weeks ago he was driving along a graded road between Otter Creek and the Waccassee River when he saw a huge hawk swoop down behind the brush a few yards away. Joe stopped to watch. From behind the brush came a couple outraged squawks and much flapping of wings; then the hawk abruptly reappeared with an outraged turkey hen hot on his tail. The predator beat a hasty retreat to a tree some hundred yards away, but the indignant hen whose brood had been threatened was mad clear through. Without a pause she swooped in after him. Joe says the last he saw of them, the nonplussed hawk was highailing it out of the area with a thoroughly enraged turkey in full pursuit! Joe says his wife, who was along, will vouch for the story.

Wildlife Officer A. A. Albritton predicts good squirrel-hunting for southwest Florida next season. Albritton says the fox squirrel population in Manatee, DeSoto, Sarasota and Manatee Counties is the thickest in several years.

The woods of Pasco and Hernando Counties aren't full of wildlife officers, but it certainly looked that way to three West Florida fishermen recently. In one day Anglers Verne Connor, Melvin Connor and Joe Chesser had their licenses checked by three officers, all working separately. The officers were Thomas Kirk of Brooksville, Arthur Snow of Brooksville and Roscoe Godwin of Ehren.

From field reports it appears Hendry County will have its best quail season in years this winter. Frank Turner of LaBelle, wildlife officer in the area, says he has counted more pairs of bobwhite this spring than at any time since 1943.

Wildlife Officer Leonard Sheppard had a narrow escape last month when his speedboat exploded and burned in Lake George. Cause of the accident could not be determined.

Who says Florida has no big game? Earn Barton, Baker County hunter, recently killed a 204-pound black bear within "hollerin' distance" of Macclenny. The bear was spotted crossing the road at Mile Branch just north of town. Less than an hour later Barton's dogs had him at bay in a large tree. The hunter said it took four charges of buckshot to bring the big fellow down. A week later E. B. Morton, Citrus County farmer, trapped and killed a 40-inch wildcat near his home in the Lake Lindsey area.

A. S. McEwen, wildlife officer in Alachua County, recently confiscated 350 yards of drag seine taken from Lochloosa Lake.

Wildlife Officer H. A. Stokes of Hilliard predicts a better-than-average deer season for Nassau County this year. He reports the breeding stock is good and says if the young'uns thrive there'll be good hunting. He said, however, that the weather vane is pointing to a very bad turkey season.

In Dixie County the turkey crop is looking up. Officers Green and Martin report there appears to be more nests and better hatching than last year.

## THEY DOUBLE AS LIFEGUARDS

Wildlife Officers Rhodus N. Hill of Quincy and W. L. Stelts of Monticello not only enforce game and fish laws, but also double in brass as lifeguards.

Between them the two officers have saved nine lives in the past few weeks. Hill hit the jackpot when he rescued five persons from Lake Talquin in one day. Crossing the lake one afternoon he found three negroes struggling toward the shore after the tossing waters had upset their small boat. He hauled them aboard his boat and deposited them safely on dry land.

Later in the day as he was recrossing the lake he spotted two more men floundering in the water far from shore. It developed their boat had also been overturned by rough water.

Stelts was credited with saving the lives of three teen-age girls and a three-year-old boy after he saw their boat capsize in Lake Miccosukee. Stelts said the small child had gone down the second time when he reached him. The officer rushed the child ashore and administered artificial respiration until he was revived.

The youngsters were with a fishing party from Metcalfe, Ga.

## Commission Releases Over 1,000,000 Fish

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission released 1,120,000 bass and bream fingerlings in the fresh water lakes and streams of Florida during the first five months of this year.

Of the total nearly 700,000 were bream and the remainder bass. The fish went to restock more than 90 bodies of water in 25 counties throughout the state.

In addition the commission has already approved applications for well over a half-million more fingerlings, to be delivered within the next few months.

Fish for restocking purposes are currently being produced at the rate of 170,000 per month in three main hatcheries at Winter Haven, Wewahatchka and Holt.

## Wildlife Arrests Jump 35 Percent During May

Arrests for violation of game and fish laws jumped more than 35 per cent during May, the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission disclosed in a monthly report.

The report showed that State wildlife officers made 320 arrests during May as compared with 237 during the previous month.

Nassau County claimed the most arrests with 41; Liberty was second with 25; Flagler, third with 23, and Broward fourth with 19.

Nearly 48 per cent of the alleged offenders were charged with fishing without a license; 13 per cent were charged with taking under-sized bass; nine per cent with fishing during closed season, and six per cent with netting and trapping fish.

## Warden School Planned

Two schools of instruction for all state wildlife officers and honorary game wardens will be conducted early in August by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

A two-day instruction period will be held in Tallahassee Aug. 4-5 for officers in the Second and Third Districts, and a similar session will follow in Orlando Aug. 7-8 for agents in the remaining three districts.

Law enforcement agents of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, officials of the FBI, and Red Cross first aid experts would act as guest instructors at the sessions. Judges and prosecuting attorneys from every district have also been invited to give their views on the enforcement of game and fish laws.

Officers E. P. Campbell and Thomas Stanaland recently rescued some 3,000 fish from an abandoned phosphate pit in East Hillsborough county. The fish, some of them whoppers, were removed to nearby deep water.



A well-known fisheries authority presents some new and important views on—

# FISH CONSERVATION

IF a dozen individuals were asked to define fish conservation we would likely get a dozen different answers. This would certainly be true if those questioned were fishermen; it would probably also be true if they were teachers.

To some the expression "fish conservation" would call to mind a fish hatchery. Others would think first of a game warden making an arrest for some violation. Still others would think of closed seasons—of periods when fishing is not permitted. So it goes. Even some conservation workers have no clear-cut concept of conservation as applied to our sport fisheries.

Why this confusion? We are rational about farming—about our pastureland. Yet, when we think about our aquatic pastures—our lakes and streams—we forget to be rational, we attach to the subject a certain mysticism. This hazy thinking has caused much confusion and misunderstanding about conservation, and has delayed its development.

Actually, a lake or stream differs little from a pasture. The "livestock" in these aquatic pastures is confronted with the same problems which confront our terrestrial livestock. Fish, like cattle or sheep, must have food to survive, and more food if they are to grow properly. They need protection from their enemies. They also require suitable living conditions.

The fisheries worker is actually a specialized farm manager, operating pastures from which the owners themselves—the public—harvest their own crops. With this fact in mind we can proceed with a discussion of fish conservation.

Fish conservation, in my opinion, must accomplish two things: (1) It must provide a maximum number of successful fishing trips without injury to future angling, and (2) it must assure a fair distribution of the fisheries resource.

Let's look at some of the facts that contribute to this concept of fish conservation:

**Restocking is sometimes necessary, but its importance is often over-emphasized.**

Fish are a crop. If they are not harvested within a reasonable length of time they die of natural causes. That reasonable length of time is much shorter than most of us suspect. In TVA waters most of the fast-growing fish must be harvested during their first four years of life (White bass during the first three years) if they are to be used at all. Of course, an occasional fish lives much longer just as an occasional man or woman survives far beyond the average life span; but in both cases the accomplishment is considered exceptional.

The fish crop should be used. The fish which provides someone a thrill and eventually ends up in a frying pan, serves a much more useful purpose than one which never samples the angler's lure. Too, since fish are a renewable crop, and since a body of water will support only a limited number of fish, a substantial portion of the crop must be removed each year to make room for the next crop.

Fishing rights on most waters belong to all citizens residing in the state. Our forefathers were democratic enough to prevent development here of the European system which makes fish and game the property of the chosen few. The question of equitable distribution of fishing opportunity is therefore a most significant one in the fish conservation.

The owners must harvest the crop. The owners of the fish, the public, are more interested in harvesting the crop than in utilizing it later. They are willing to pay

By  
**DR. R. W. ESCHMEYER**  
Tennessee Valley Authority

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Tennessee Conservationist

several times the meat value of the crop (in boats, motors, transportation, bait, tackle, etc.) just for the pleasure of harvesting it.

The conservation department cannot harvest the crop for them. The question of giving each owner who wants it, the opportunity of harvesting his share of the crop is therefore of paramount importance. For this reason, the harvesting machinery must be relatively inefficient to prevent some owners from taking far more than their share of the fish.

The hook and line is the accepted harvesting machinery. There are other methods of fishing, including seining, netting, and dynamiting. All might be considered forms of recreation, and probably they are not uninteresting methods of fishing. However, they are too effective and must be outlawed because they permit users to take more than their share of the crop. For this reason sport fishing must be restricted to the use of hook and line, in most instances.

With hook and line, ample brood stock is generally present regardless of fishing intensity. Therefore, the major purpose of fishing regulations, other than that limiting the bear, is to provide fair distribution of the fishing and fish crop. Fisheries administrators frequently worry a great deal over the possibility of "fishing out" our waters. In this section we now have evidence to suggest that it is extremely difficult, in many of the larger lakes and streams, to "fish out" a water to the point where inadequate brood stock remains. Fishing becomes too poor to be attractive long before such extreme decimation of the population occurs.

## Conservation Practices

OF the various fish conservation activities, several major ones deserve brief mention and comment:

**1. Stocking**—When we realize that a single female fish may produce from 5,000 to 100,000 offspring per year, we





can see how planting a few "calves" to our aquatic pastures might not influence the population appreciable. If even one percent of these new-born fish grew to maturity the waters would have too little food to support them. Stocking is helpful in some instances, especially where trout of catchable size are stocked in heavily fished trout waters; in many of our lakes and streams the practice is of little benefit.

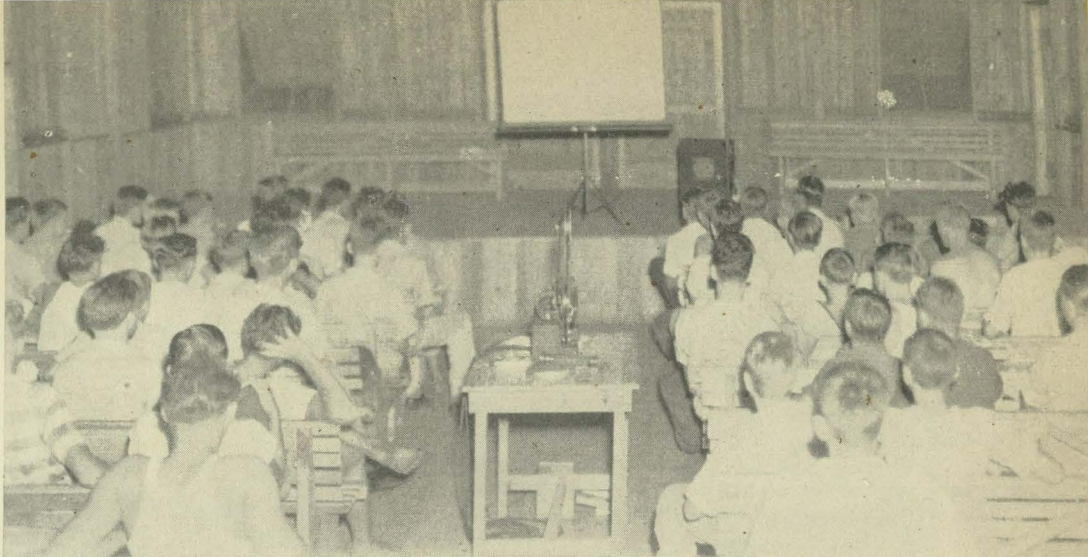
**2. Law enforcement—** Certain laws are necessary to provide a fair distribution of our fish resources. The one limiting our harvesting equipment to the hook and line is certainly most significant in this respect. Some regulations, however, arbitrarily made without benefit of scientific investigation, may do more harm than good.

**3. Environment improvement—** More fish of the desired kind can often be produced by making changes in the aquatic pasture. We all know that adding lime makes it possible to raise alfalfa on land which would not originally grow this crop. Just so, aquatic pastures can be treated to provide more fishing and more fish—spawning grounds can be improved, more shelter can be provided, fertilizer can be added to small ponds (in big waters the cost of fertilizing is excessive), and water levels can be adjusted.

**4. Keeping the population in balance—** Pan fish like the bluegill bream may become too abundant unless "held down." For this reason it is usually desirable to have both predatory (game) fish and pan fish in the same waters, and to have proper numbers of each. Sometimes rough fish, such as carp, become too abundant. The fish conservationist must try to keep the "weed" species reduced to a minimum, and the other species properly balanced.

**5. Creating more water—** Aquatic pastures, like our other pastures, will produce only a given amount of "livestock." If we want more fish, we must increase their pasture area; that means more waters or bigger waters. The farm fish pond program is greatly increasing the amount of fishing water.

The teaching of fish conservation would progress much more rapidly if we taught the pupil that lakes and streams are really pastures, capable of producing only limited amount of "livestock." He should be made to realize that as the fishing demand increases his share of the fisheries resource



Dr. Eschmeyer believes classroom study can be the most progressive step in promoting fish conservation.

becomes smaller and smaller. On many of our heavily fished waters, fishing for "meat" is a thing of the past. We must learn to fish "for fun."

### Interest in Fishing

**K**NOWING something about our aquatic pastures may be of more value to the student than some of his other subjects. In a study of conservation pupils should be taught to take an active interest in fishing as well as in fish conservation. The teacher should stimulate such interest by taking his class on a fishing trip (he can call it conservation, or biology, or whatever else may be necessary to justify it).

It would probably be much more helpful than teaching the exact date of the Battle of Hasing, or the exact height of Mt. Everest. The youngster who enjoys fishing contributes little to juvenile delinquency. Many think the subject of fish conservation is dull. If the student is confronted with a raft of scientific terminology it probably would be. However, there is no necessity for that. You can make the subject interesting by little stories of a fish's homelife. For instance, how many kids know that the male bass builds the nest and guards the eggs and young. He does all the housework. The boy who is asked to sweep the floor at home may fail to realize his good fortune in having to do only a little housework. But he is almost certain to get considerable reassurance in later life from observing the bass—especially on "bridge-club night" when he is faced with a sink filled with dirty dishes and several youngsters to put to bed. After all the male bass has

done all the housework for generations, and he survived!

Teaching about our aquatic livestock, and about fish conservation generally, is definitely not boring if the teacher has the needed background and training. The principles of fish conservation are simple enough so that the average pupil can understand them. The teaching of conservation is of immense value to the pupil. There is one problem though, hinted at in our final question which is to be read only by the staff members of our teacher training institutions: Are you giving future teachers the training in conservation they need to adequately teach this important subject?

Vultures, which are supposed to have an exceptionally keen sense of smell, are actually deficient in this regard.

The earliest record of a banded bird is that of a heron captured in Germany in 1710. The metal bands on its leg had been placed there in Turkey several years before.

A species of bee called magacolide caused G. I.'s considerable trouble on a South Pacific island. Not by stinging them, but by building their houses in the bores of military rifles.

The red fox is much faster than the grey fox. He has been known to cover a given distance at the rate of thirty miles per hour.

### ARMADILLOS IN FLORIDA

Two armadillos, normally seen only in the desert country of the Far West, have been found in Duval County. One of the small "armor-clad" creatures was shot and the other turned over to the Jacksonville zoo.



Seines like this "harvest" our fish crops with disastrous thoroughness.



## No Penalty Bill Ruled Invalid

The 1947 legislative act exempting commercial fishermen on Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns river from punishment under State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission regulations has been declared unconstitutional.

In a circuit court opinion handed down in Arcadia July 7, Judge W. T. Harrison held the "no penalty" law was "void and ineffective" and that the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission still had full authority to enforce its commercial fishing ban on the two bodies of water.

The opinion came during a hearing on a petition for injunction filed by the Commission. In the suit, the state agency sought to enjoin commercial fishermen A. A. Beck and Joe Griffin from netting, selling or transporting game fish from these waters.

Judge Harrison ruled, however, that the injunction was unnecessary. He held that in his opinion, the penalties set up by the Commission were still legally effective, and there was no necessity for court intervention.

Attorneys for the Commission described Judge Harrison's decision as the first step toward clearing up the "confusion and chaos" created by the no penalty law. The supreme court has upheld the Commission's right to close Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns river to netting. However, the 1947 legislation, sponsored by commercial fishing interests, permits the resumption of commercial fishing by repealing all penalties for violations committed on the two bodies.

In effect this left the Commission with a court approved regulation and no means of enforcing it.

The Commission has also attacked the validity of three other 1947 acts, giving the State Board of Conservation jurisdiction over Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns river. In a "friendly" suit filed in the Leon County circuit court, the Commission has asked that the salt water agency be restrained from exercising jurisdiction in the two areas. Both the Conservation department and the Game and Fish Commission agreed a court decision was necessary to clear up conflicting regulations.

### PENSACOLA LAB ASSURED

According to reports from Washington the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries laboratory in Pensacola will continue to operate in spite of the service's recent budget slash.

A senate subcommittee on appropriations has authorized Albert M. Day, director of the fish and wildlife service, to rearrange funds to keep the laboratory in operation.

Day said he had been instructed to channel funds to new projects in preference to continuing those in operation for a long period.



# Books



**THE LAND AND WILDLIFE**—by Edward H. Graham. 232 xiii pages. 32 plates of excellent half-tone illustrations from photographs. Published by the Oxford University Press, New York, 1947. Price \$4.00.

This book is the first comprehensive attempt to treat environmental improvement for wildlife as it can be accomplished through land use. It discusses field borders, hedges, windbreaks, streambanks, spoilbanks, gullies, ponds, marshes, and other land features—their treatment and wildlife values. Sections of the book also discuss the use of cropland, pasture, range, woodland and forest in relation to their influences upon wildlife. Much that has been learned during the past decade by Soil Conservation Service biologists—to whom the book is dedicated—will be found in this treatise.

"The Land and Wildlife" is more than a consideration of land treatments, however. The introductory chapter gives cultural values of wildlife, the second presents a readable chronology of the history of wildlife management in the United States, while the third tells of the importance of the land-use approach to wildlife welfare. Other chapters deal with wildlife values, harvest, and other matters of interest. The flushing bar, annual food patches, and winter feeding come in for criticism from the land-use standpoint, and an eyebrow is even raised at the value of refuges. The author's comments on sportsman-farmer relations are much to the point. It has a splendid bibliography and index.



**THE RUFFED GROUSE**—by Frank C. Edminster. 383 xxvi pages. 56 plates, numerous tables and charts illustrating and emphasizing important points in the text. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York, 1947. Price \$5.00.

In this delightful, well-illustrated monograph is a factual account of one of America's most popular and fascinating game birds. No other bird has been cited or mentioned more often in the pioneer records of the New World. The ruffed grouse or "partridge" is legend in many parts of its

former range, and here are the facts on the native species that is too frequently confused with the exotic pheasant.

This is the life story, the ecology and a guide for the management of the ruffed grouse. The text interprets a wide experience, with many observations and numerous reports on the fundamental factors that influence the numbers of wildlife of all kinds. With the accuracy and care with which it is written, this book fills a long existing need. The wildlife technician, land management biologist, and student will use it for a reference. The sportsman will find in it the practical things that have to be done if ruffed grouse are to be perpetuated, and are to increase.



**ALASKA'S ANIMALS AND FISHES**—by Frank Dufresne. 297 xvi pages. 14 splendid full-page color plates and numerous reproductions of exquisite line drawings by Bob Hines. Published by A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. Price \$5.00.

This beautifully illustrated, superbly written book is the enduring kind that you will cherish yourself, and will recommend to your intimate friends. It is a comprehensive treatise on the strange and intriguing animal and fish life found in that far-reaching wonderland—America's last frontier—which every outdoorsman hopes one day to see. The author, a born naturalist, who spent nearly twenty-five years in Alaska, really knows the strange land and sea creatures of which he writes. Their habits and characteristics unfold in a pleasing fashion.

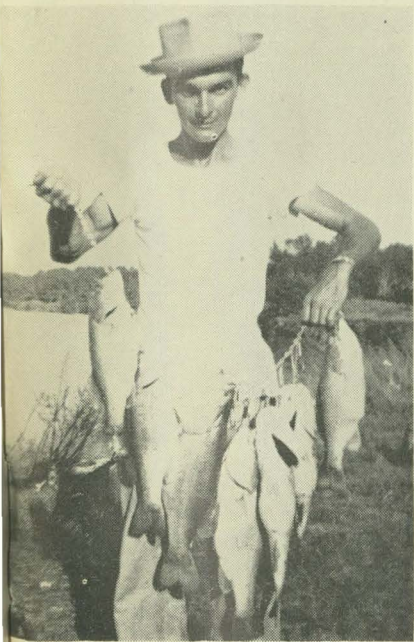
One chapter deals with wildlife of the Ice Age. Another is on the fabulous fur trade. The book contains worthwhile and helpful information for the hunter, fisherman, and nature lover. It goes from the tiny shrew to the largest living carnivore, the giant Kodiak or Alaska brown bear; from the colorful grayling to the whales and porpoises. Many little-known and fascinating facts about such unfamiliar animals as the sea otter, ribbon seal, walrus, and musk ox are brought to light from the first-hand experience of this recognized authority.



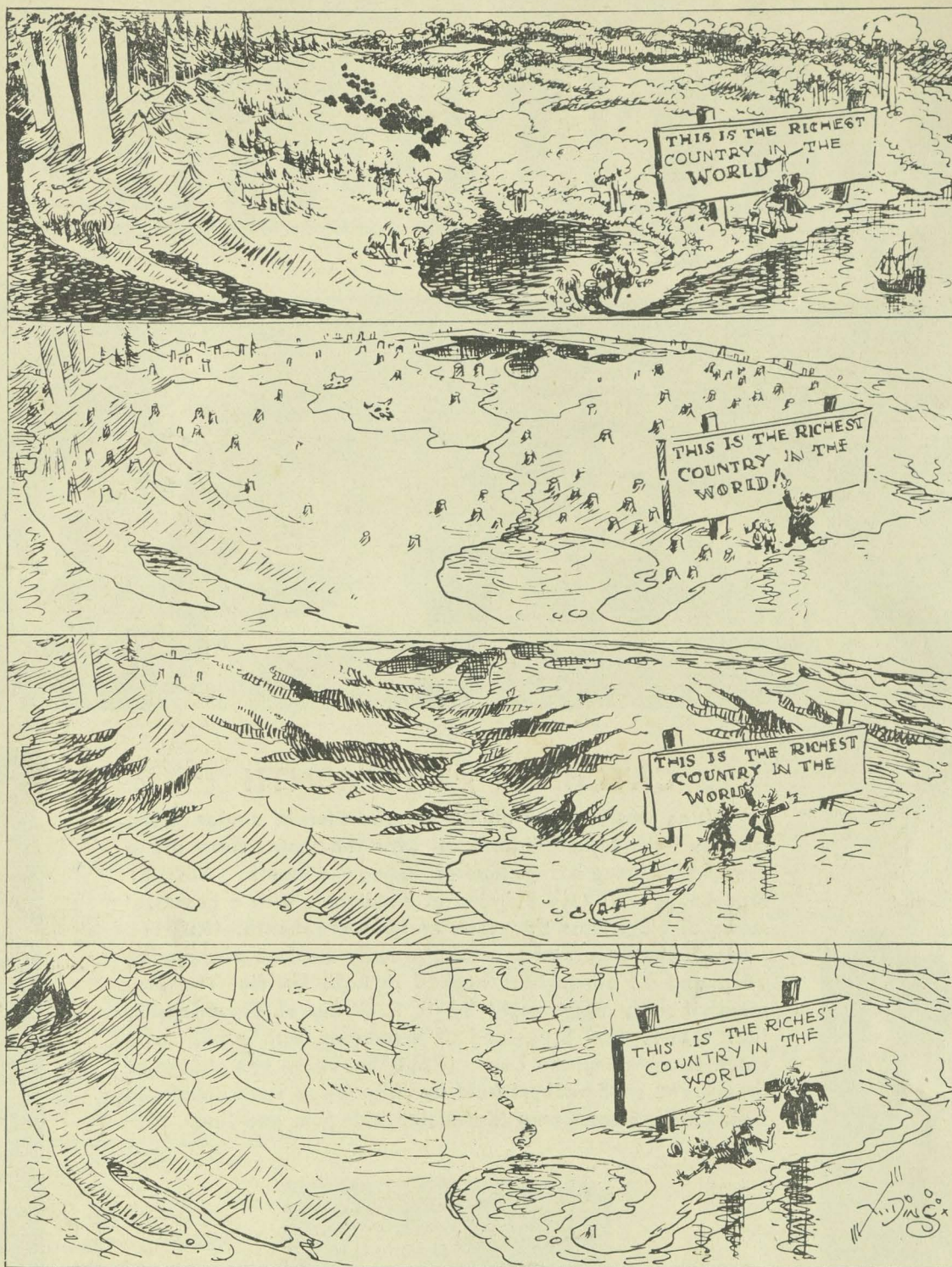


### CATCHES OF THE MONTH

June was a great month for the Florida angler. Good catches were reported from all over the state. Here are a few of the choice strings hooked during the month. (ABOVE) Fred Engle and Lloyd Fleming of Kissimmee with a beautiful string of black bass they took early in the month. (RIGHT) Little Bobby Rogers of Leesburg proudly displays a whopping 14 pound 12 ounce bass hooked in Lake Griffin. The big-mouth beauty was caught by T. E. Strine of Bloomington, Ind. (LEFT) Earl Stanaland of Wimauma with a one-day's catch from Wimauma Lake. (BELOW) These two strings of bream and shellcrackers held by John Owen were caught in Bear Creek, near Camp McAllister with pole and line.







Courtesy New York Herald-Tribune

*It Used to Be*